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<p>(71) Applicant; and (72) Inventor: DUNCH, Poul, Pedersen [DK/DK]; Klokke- toften 15, DK-2750 Ballerup (DK).</p> <p>(74) Agent: LARSEN & BIRKEHOLM A/S SKANDINA- VISK PATENTBUREAU; Niels Hemmingsens Gade 32, DK-1153 København K (DK).</p>		<p>(81) Designated States: AT, AT (European patent), CH, CH (European patent), DE, DE (European patent), FI, FR (European patent), GB, GB (European patent), JP, NL, NL (European patent), NO, SE, SE (European pa- tent), US.</p> <p>Published With international search report In English translation (filed in Danish)</p>
<p>(54) Title: CIRCUIT FOR AUTOMATIC DISCHARGE PROTECTION OF A PASSIVE CURRENT SOURCE</p>		
<p>(57) Abstract</p>		
<p>In a circuit for the discharge protection of a passive current source (7) a load (4, 5) is fed via the emitter collector circuit of a transistor (13), the base of said transistor (13) being connected to a zener diode (15) via a resistor (16), the joint point of the resistor (16) and the zener diode (15) being connected to the current source (7) via a resistor (14). Thus a simple and effective cutting out of the load (4, 5) is achieved, when the voltage of the current source (7) falls below a threshold value determined by the zener diode (15).</p>		

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CIRCUIT FOR AUTOMATIC DISCHARGE PROTECTION OF A PASSIVE
CURRENT SOURCE.

- 1 The invention relates to a circuit for automatic discharge
protection of a passive current source, which is loaded by
e.g. bicycle lamps.
- 5 When using dynamo lamps on a bicycle, the bicycle lamps can
only emit light during bicycling, i.e. when the dynamo lamp
is activated. When the bicycle is at a standstill, the lamps
are off which means that the cyclist is running a great risk
of being overlooked in the traffic. In order to solve this
10 problem it is known to use a secondary current source in the
form of a passive current source furnishing the lamps with



- 1 current when the cyclist is stopping. The change-over be-
between these two power sources may take place electronically,
for instance so that the secondary power source is cut in
when the voltage of the dynamo falls below a certain level.
- 5 This is known from e.g. the specification to DT-OS No.
2,443,415 describing a circuit for charging a battery and
feeding a load in the form of bicycle lamps. The circuit con-
sists of an emitter follower which by means of a zener diode
functions as excess-voltage protection for battery and lamps.
- 10 The circuit does not protect the battery which most advanta-
geously is constituted by rechargeable Ni-Cd-cells, against
a considerable discharging, shortening the lifetime of the
cells considerably, reducing the efficiency and perhaps causing
a change in polarizing.
- 15 From the specification to US Patent No. 3,648,145 a circuit
is already known which causes a break in the connection be-
tween a power circuit and a load when the voltage of the cur-
rent source falls below a predetermined threshold value. The
- 20 electronic circuit performing this cutting out consists of a
transistor circuit in the collector emitter circuit of which
a relay coil is adapted to operate a switch for cutting out
and cutting in the load. The base voltage of the transistor
is provided by the current source via a voltage divider which
- 25 thus loads the current source whether the load is cut in or
cut out. This idle load is not very heavy, however, but enough
as to make the device unfit for delivering the power supply
to a bicycle, as a bicycle often remains unused for a very
long period. Even a moderate discharging of the Ni-Cd-cells
- 30 may thus cause damage to them.

35 { It is the object of the present invention to provide a circuit for auto-
matic discharge protection of a secondary current source of a bicycle, and
which is not encumbered with the abovementioned disadvantages. This is
achieved in that the current source feeds the load via the emitter col-
lector circuit of a transistor, that the basis of this transistor is
connected to a zener diode via a resistor, and that the joint point of the



1 resistor and the zener diode is connected to the current source via a
resistor. This construction is simple and inexpensive to produce and
secures the current source completely against discharging when the supply
voltage falls below the threshold value determined by the zener diode.
55 The circuit is thus especially suitable for being mounted on bicycles.

In the following the invention will be further described with reference
to the drawing which shows a circuit according to the invention, which
is coupled with a generally known circuit for charging a secondary pas-
10 sive current source.

On the drawing a dynamo 1 is shown, which is connected to two electrical
bulbs 4 and 5, e.g. the front and rear lights of a bicycle, via a resis-
tor 2 and a relay switch 3. The dynamo 1 is furthermore via a diode 6
15 connected to a number of Ni-Cd-cells 7, which are connected in series to
a circuit breaker 8. A capacitor 9 is earthed parallel to the cells 7.
A relay 10 is connected to the dynamo 1 in series with another diode 11,
the relay 10 being connected in parallel to another capacitor 12. The Ni-
Cd-cells 7 are connected to the electrical bulbs 4 and 5 via the emitter
20 collector circuit of a transistor 13 and the switch 3, and loaded by a
resistor 14 and a zener diode 15 connected in series. The basis of the
transistor 13 is via a resistor 16 connected to the zener diode 15 and
thus to the cells 7 via the resistor 14.

25 The circuit is functioning in the following manner. When the
dynamo 1 does not produce power, the relay switch 3 is in
a position of rest, shown with a dot-and-dash line, so that
the electrical bulbs 4 and 5 under certain conditions, which
will be explained later, are fed by the Ni-Cd-cells 7 via
30 the emitter collector circuit of the transistor 13. ~~When the
dynamo 1 starts to produce power,~~ the capacitor 12 is first
charged through the diode 11, whereupon power starts to run
through the relay 10, which draws the relay switch 3 to the
position shown with the solid line. The electrical bulbs
35 4 and 5 are now fed by the dynamo 1, which simultaneously
charges the Ni-Cd-cells, which are protected against a too

- 1 powerfull charging by the circuit breaker 8. When the
dynamo 1 again stops producing power, or produces too little
power, the relay switch 3 switches back to the position
shown with the dot-and-dash line, whereby the Ni-Cd-cells 7
5 take over the feeding of the electrical bulbs 4 and 5. ~~If~~
~~the voltage of the Ni-Cd-cells 7 falls to a voltage below~~
~~the puncture voltage of the zener diode 15,~~ power cannot
pass through the zener diode 15, which means that the emitter
basis voltage drop of the transistor 13 is switched off.
10 Thus the switch-off of the transistor 13 will follow the
characteristic of the zener diode 15. The construction shown
in the example can be used within a large voltage range by
suitably dimensioning the components.
- 15 The invention is not limited to the use shown in the example,
i.e. protection of the secondary current source of bicycle
lamps, as the construction may be used in connection with
all kinds of current sources.

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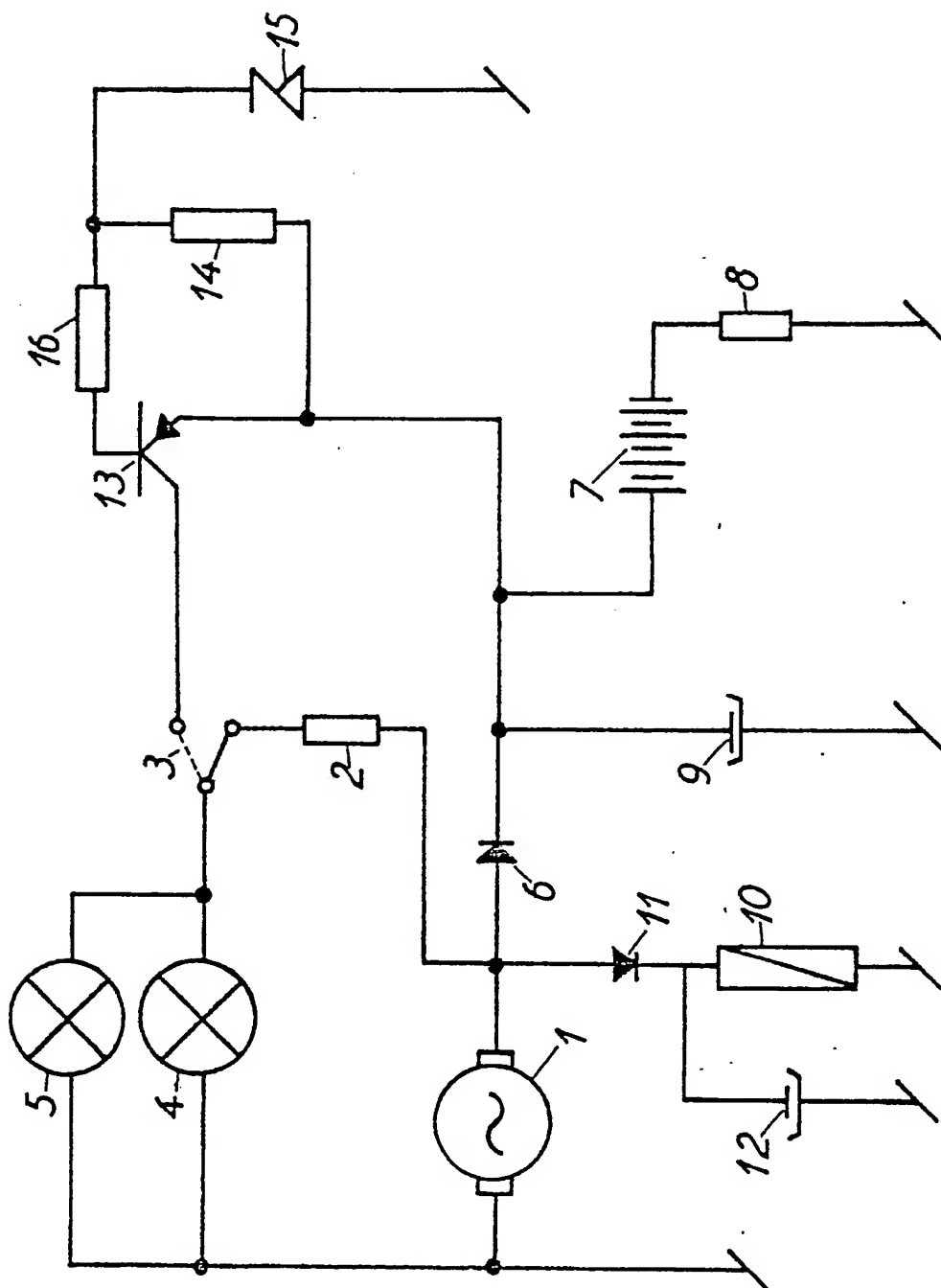


C L A I M

- 1 Circuit for automatic discharge protection of a current
source which is loaded by e.g. bicycle lamps, c h a r a c -
t e r i z e d i n that the current source (7) feeds the
load (4, 5) via the emitter collector circuit of a tran--
5 sistor (13), that the basis of this transistor (13) via
a resistor (16) is connected to a zener diode (15), and
that the joint point of the resistor (16) and the zener
diode (15) is connected to the current source via a resis-
tor (14).

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No PCT/DK80/00065

I. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER (If several classification symbols apply, indicate all) *		
According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both National Classification and IPC		
H 02 J 7/00, B 62 J 5/00		
II. FIELDS SEARCHED		
Minimum Documentation Searched *		
Classification System	Classification Symbols	
IPC 3	H 02 J 7/00, B 62 J 5/00	
US C1	320+13, 40	
Documentation Searched other than Minimum Documentation to the Extent that such Documents are Included in the Fields Searched *		
SE, NO, DK, FI classes as above		
III. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT 14		
Category *	Citation of Document, 15 with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages 17	Relevant to Claim No. 18
A	US, A, 3 648 145 published 1972, March 7, The Singer Company	
A	DE, A1, 2 304 555 published 1974, August 1, Licentia Patent-Verwaltungs-GmbH	
A	DE, A1, 2 443 415 published 1976, March 25, Miebach Christian	
A	DE, A1, 2 507 780 published 1976, September 2, Marbach geb. Mensinger Johanna	
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IV. CERTIFICATE 19		
Date of the Actual Completion of the International Search 1		Date of Mailing of this International Search Report 1
1981-01-23		1981-02-02
International Searching Authority 1		Signature of Authorized Officer 20
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